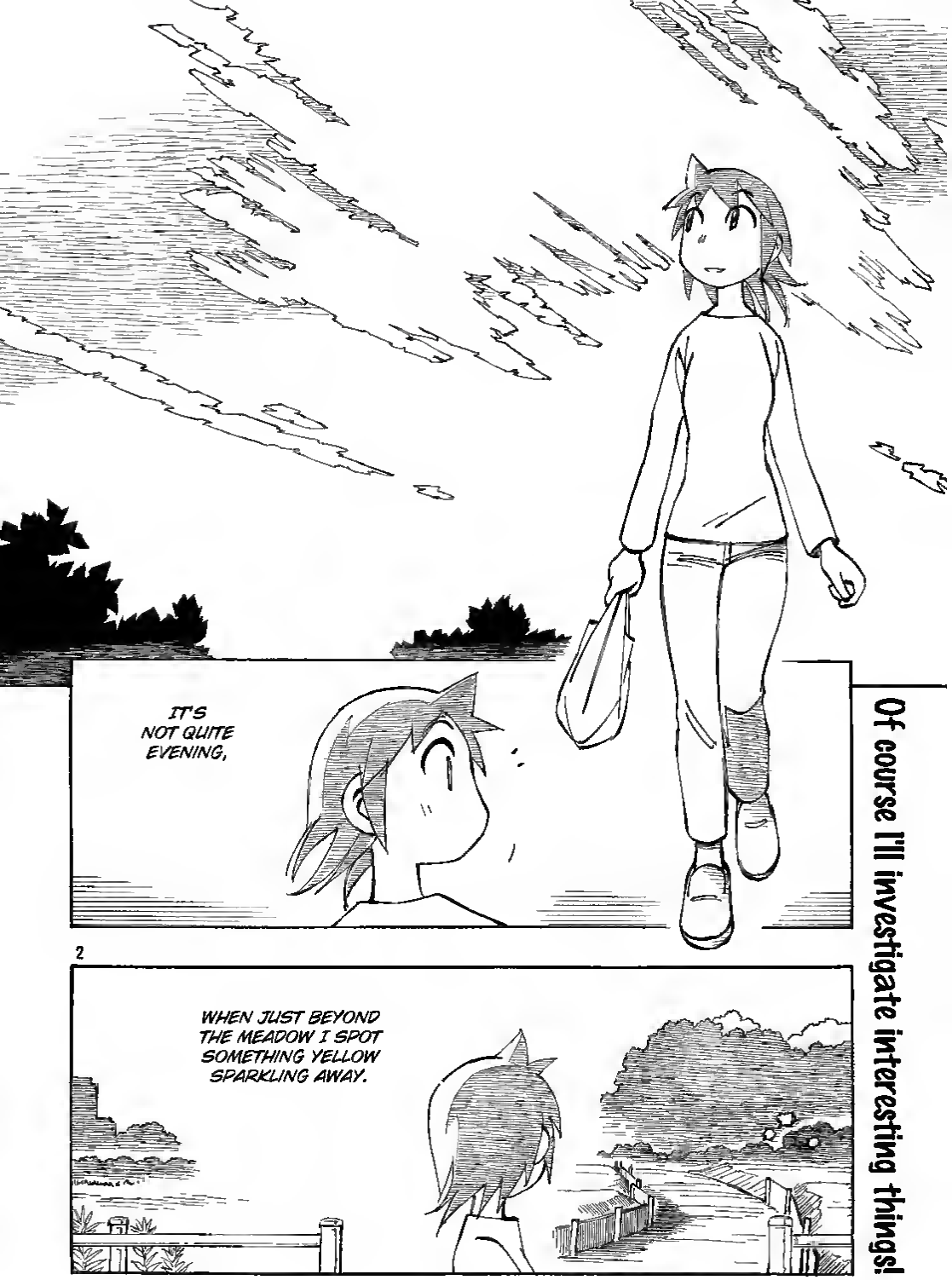
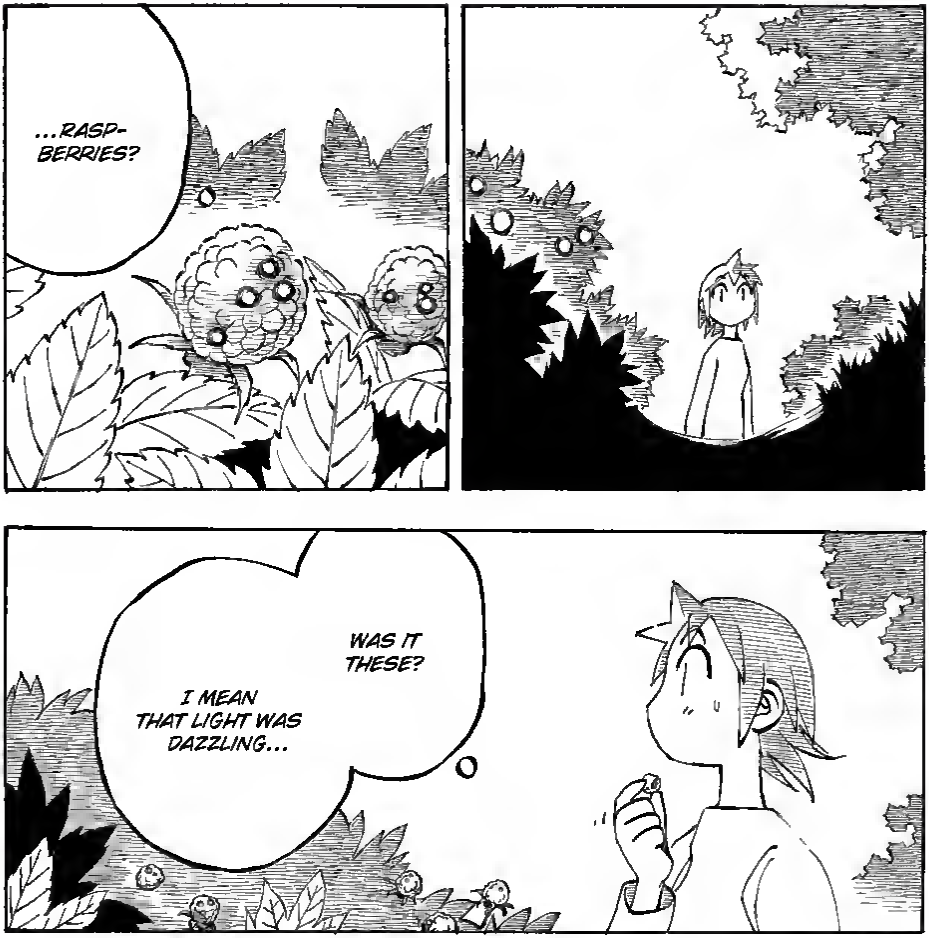
Kotonoba Drive

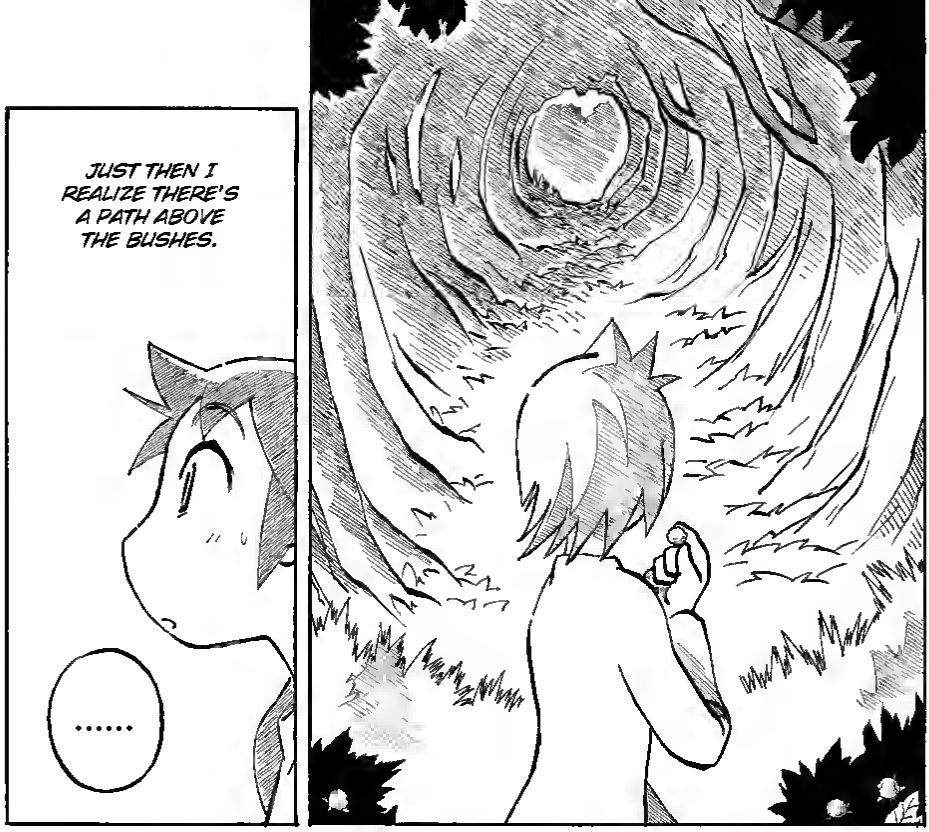
route 20
[RASPBERRIES]

hitoshi ashinano presents "kotonoba-drive"

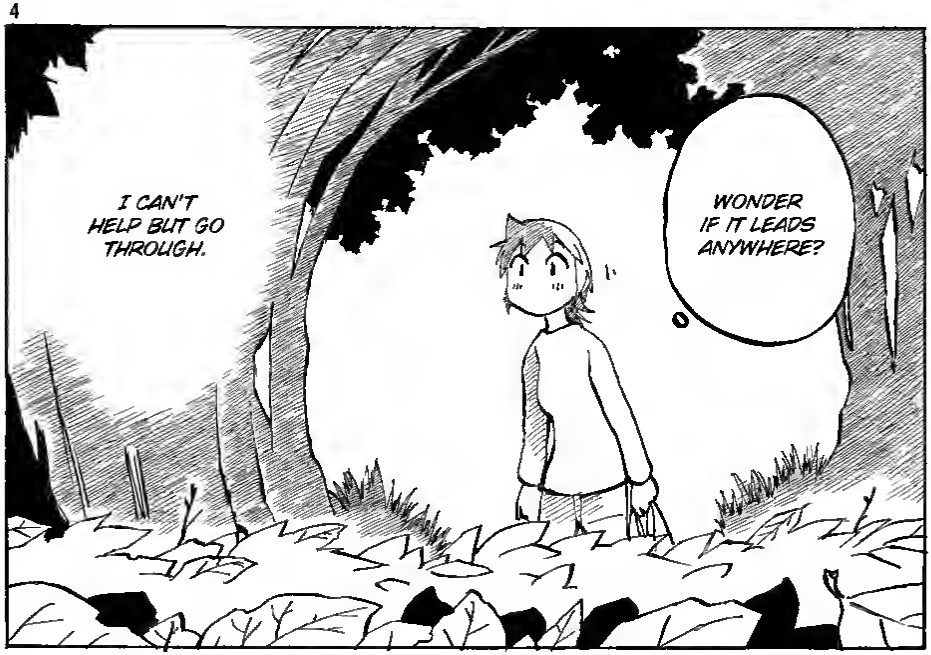


Of course I'll investigate interesting things!


...RASP-BERRIES?
WAS IT THESE?
I MEAN THAT LIGHT WAS DAZZLING...
3
MMM!
IT'S BEEN AGES SINCE I'VE EATEN RASPBERRIES!!
I CAN'T EVEN TELL IF THIS TART SWEETNESS IS DELICIOUS OR NOT.

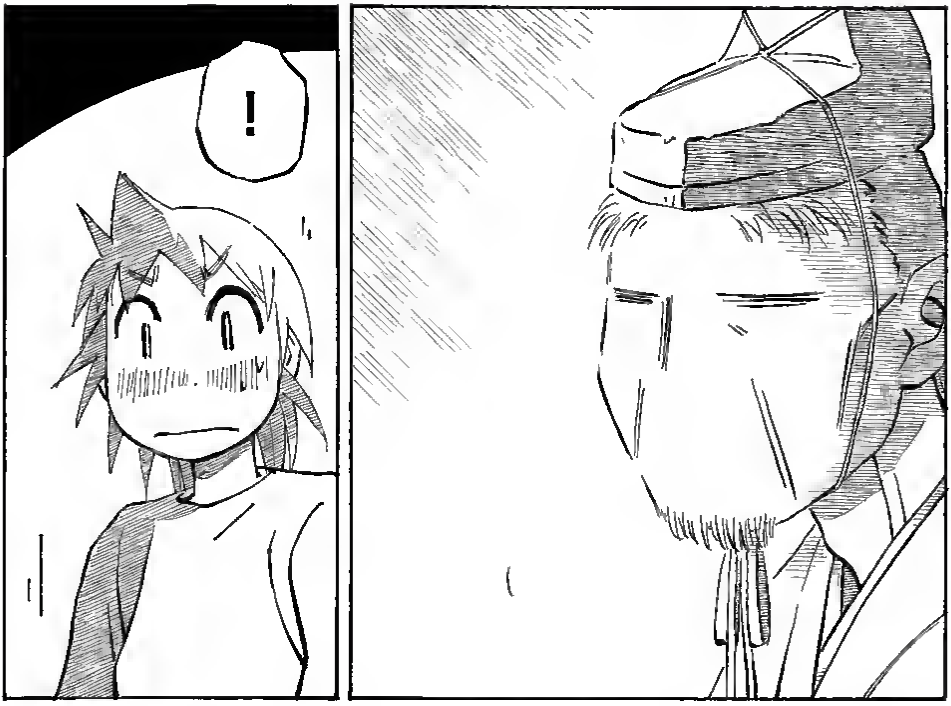

JUST THEN I REALIZE THERE'S A PATH ABOVE THE BUSHES.
.....

4


I CAN'T HELP BUT GO THROUGH.
WONDER IF IT LEADS ANYWHERE?

IT'S A PLEASANT PATH TO WALK ALONG, WITH THE SUN PENETRATING THROUGH, AND THE FALLEN LEAVES UNDERNEATH.
RUSTLE
CRINKLE
CRUNCH
THERE'S THE END OF THE SLOPE!

...EVERY TIME THIS STUFF HAPPENS, I THINK:
"MAYBE I SHOULDN'T HAVE COME!"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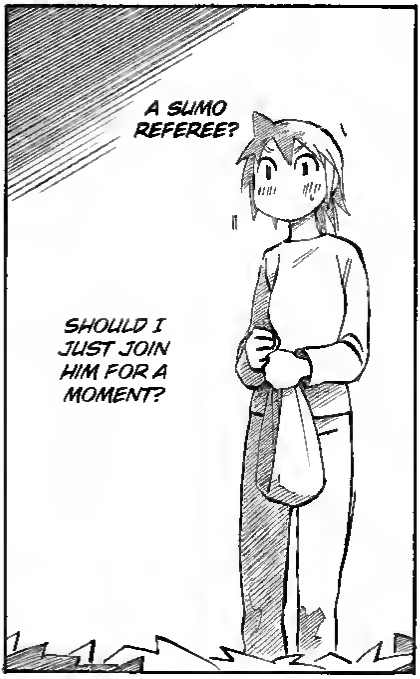
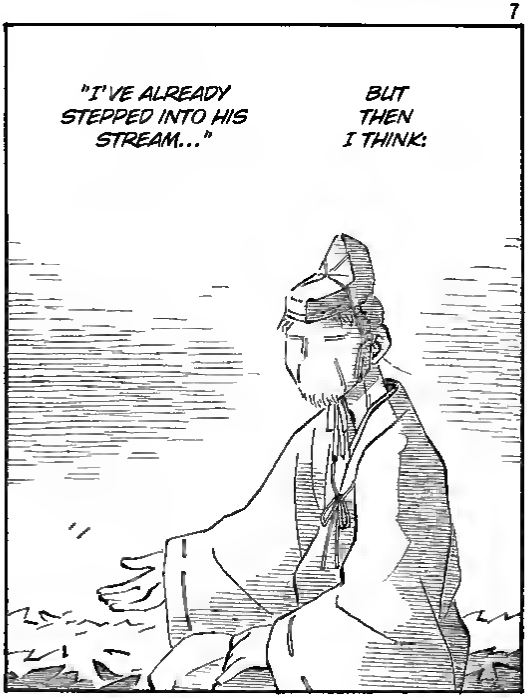
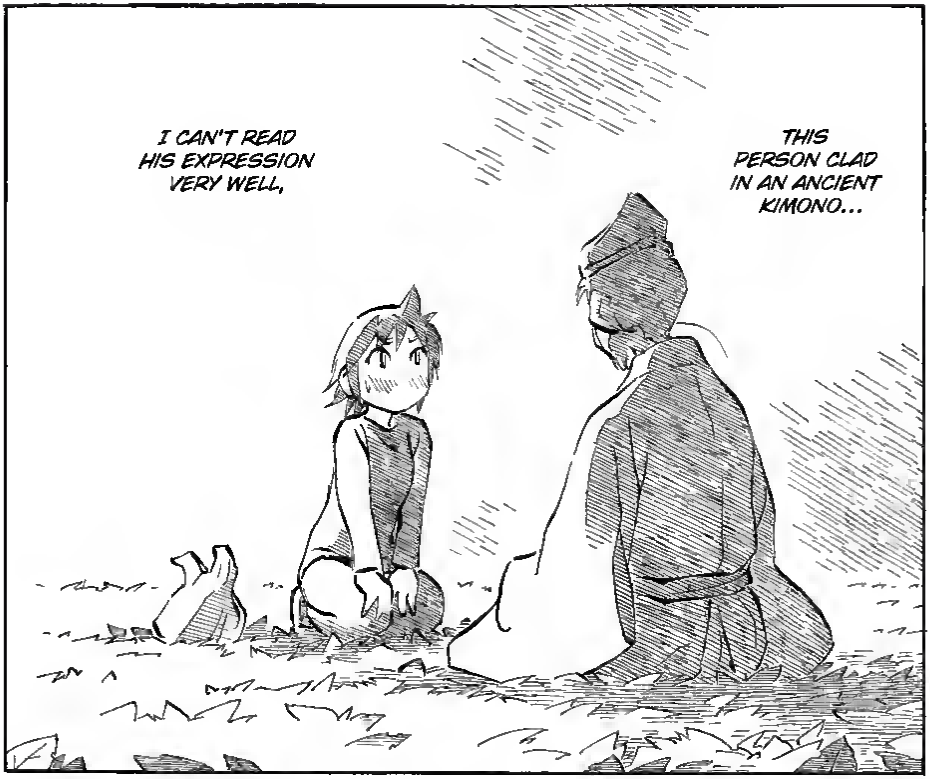

A SUMO REFEREE?
SHOULD I JUST JOIN HIM FOR A MOMENT?


"I'VE ALREADY STEPPED INTO HIS STREAM..."
BUT THEN I THINK:


I CAN'T READ HIS EXPRESSION VERY WELL,
THIS PERSON CLAD IN AN ANCIENT KIMONO...

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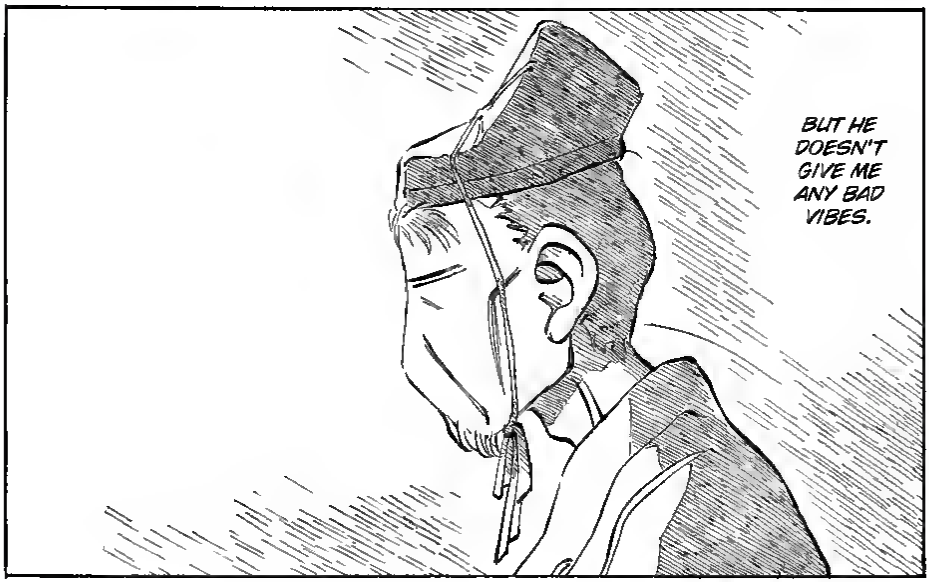
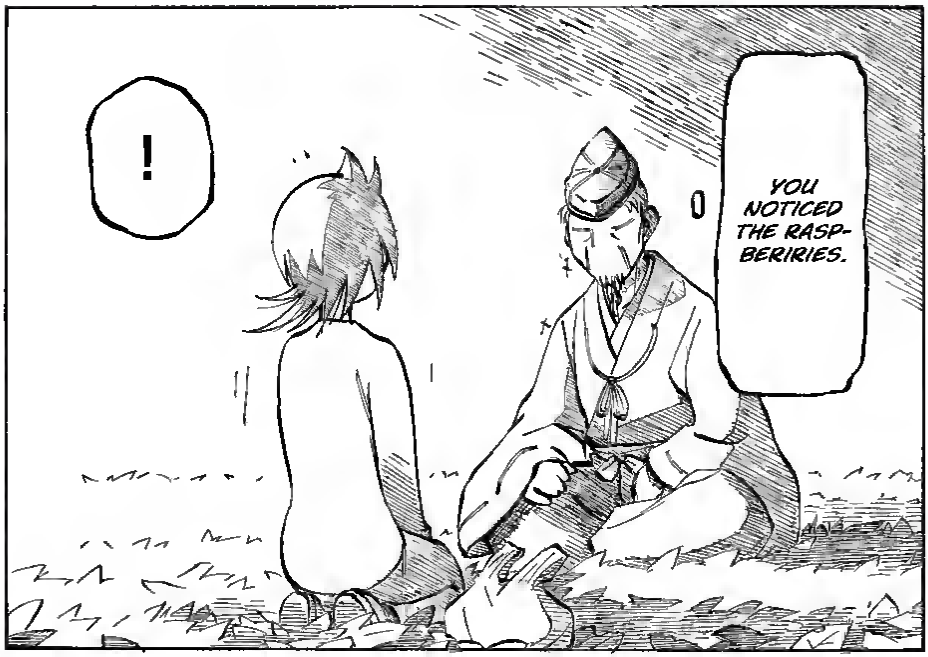

BUT HE DOESN'T GIVE ME ANY BAD VIBES.


!
YOU NOTICED THE RASP-BERIRIES.

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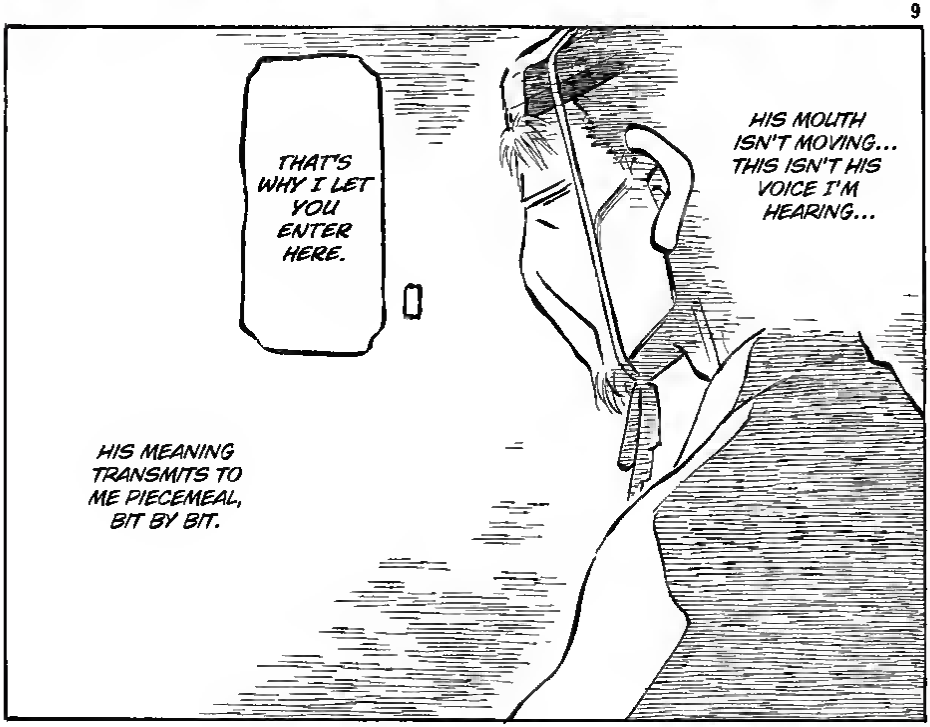
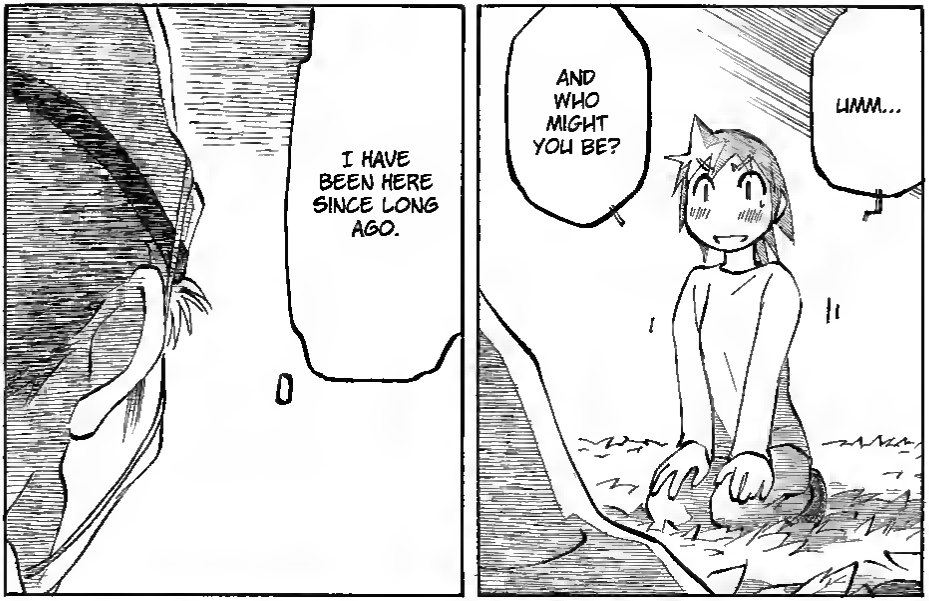

THAT'S WHY I LET YOU ENTER HERE.
HIS MOUTH ISN'T MOVING... THIS ISN'T HIS VOICE I'M HEARING...
HIS MEANING TRANSMITS TO ME PIECEMEAL, BIT BY BIT.


I HAVE BEEN HERE SINCE LONG AGO.
AND WHO MIGHT YOU BE?
UMM...

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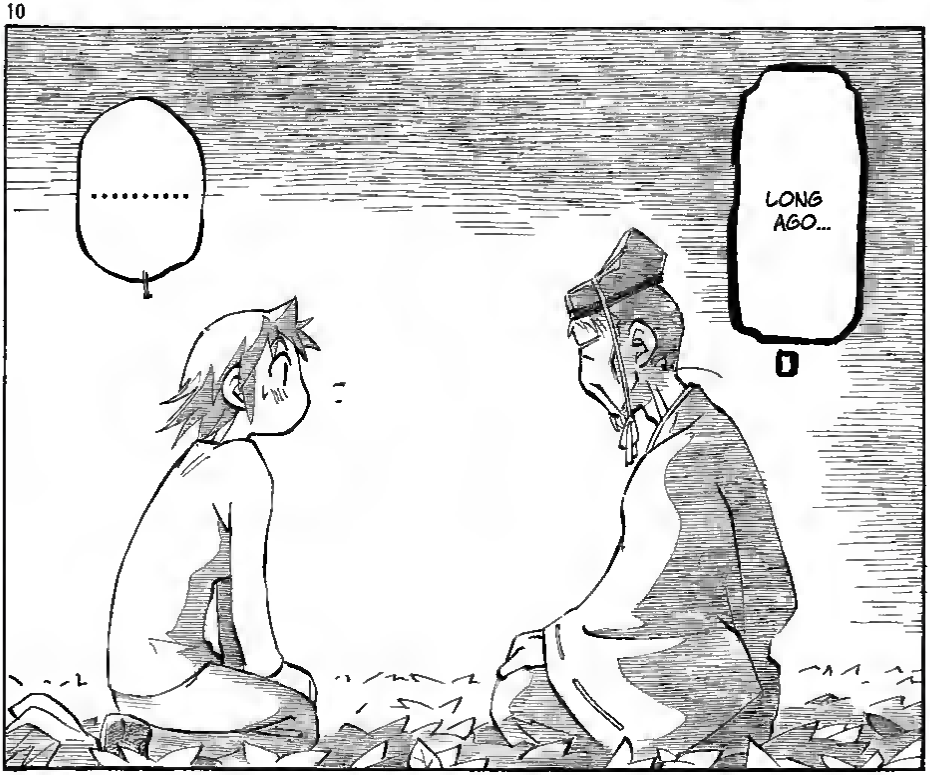
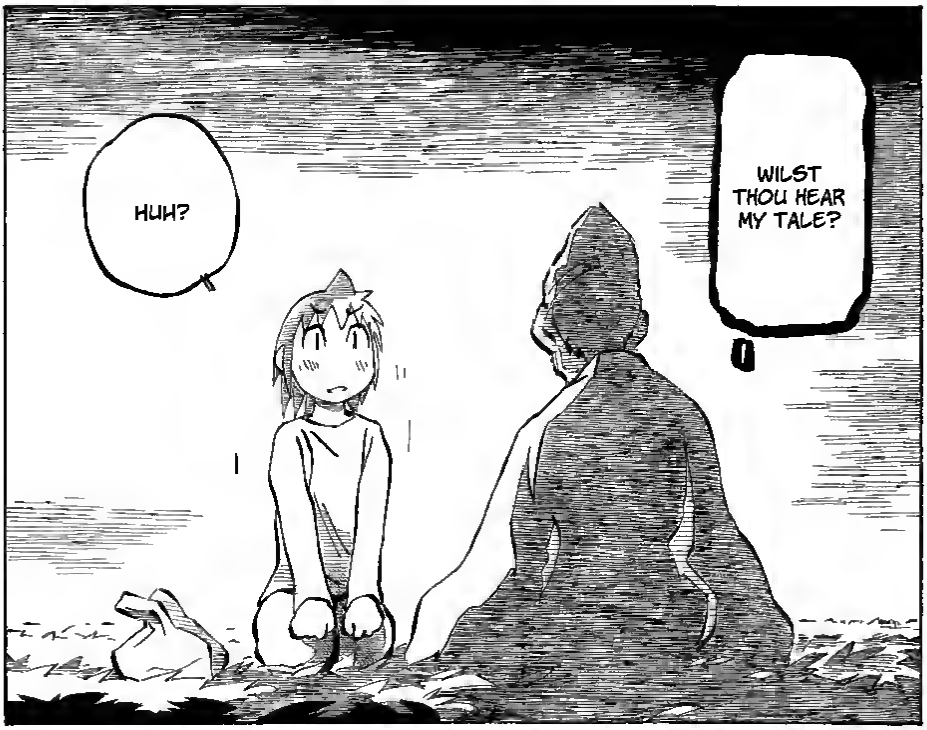

.....
LONG AGO...


HUH?
WILST THOU HEAR MY TALE?

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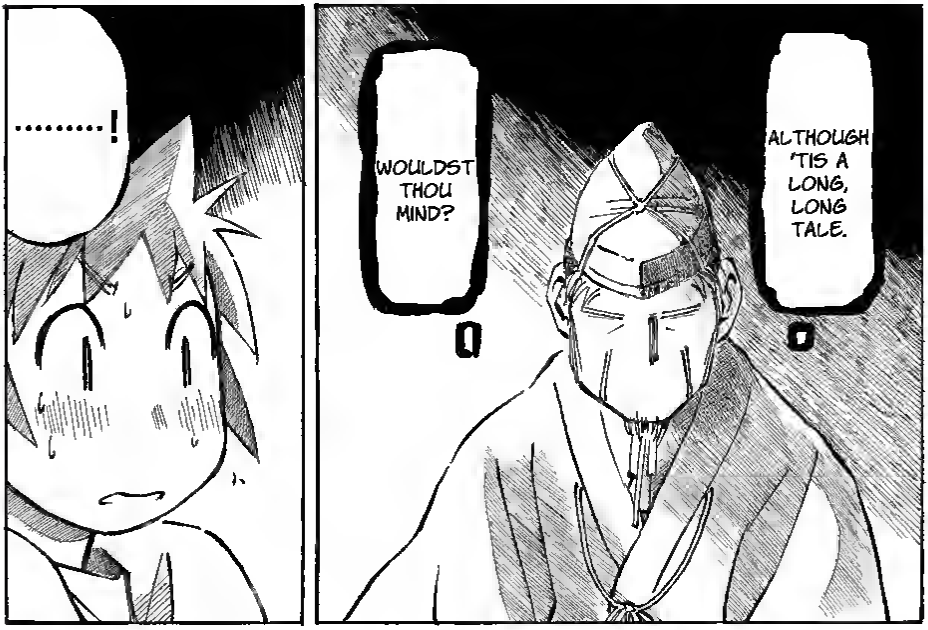
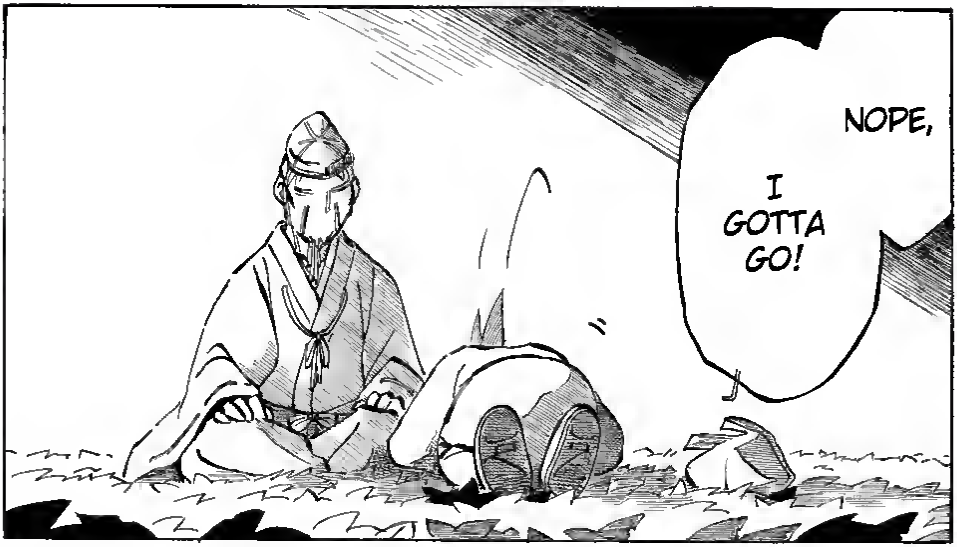
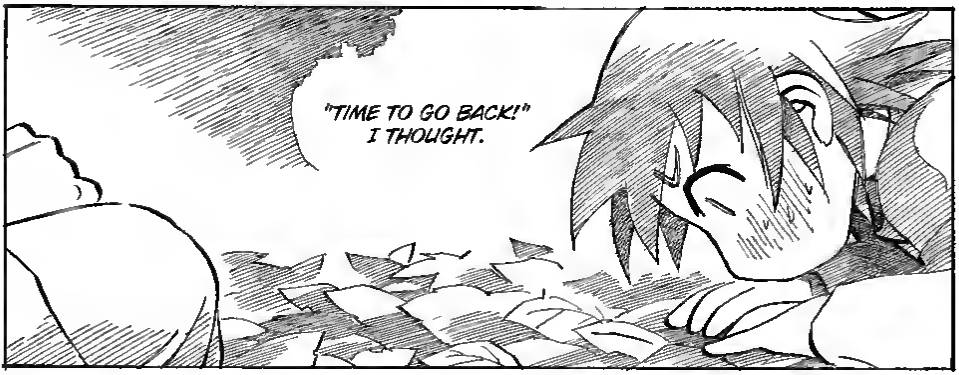

.....!
WOULDST THOU MIND?
ALTHOUGH 'TIS A LONG, LONG TALE.





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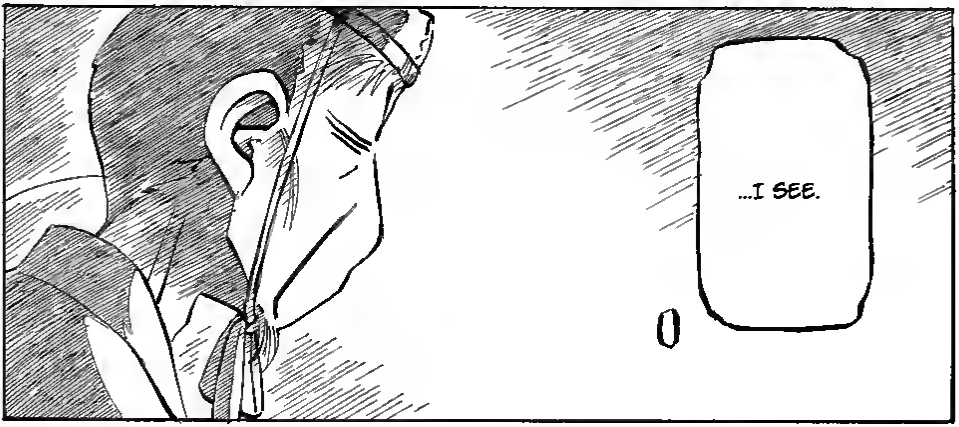

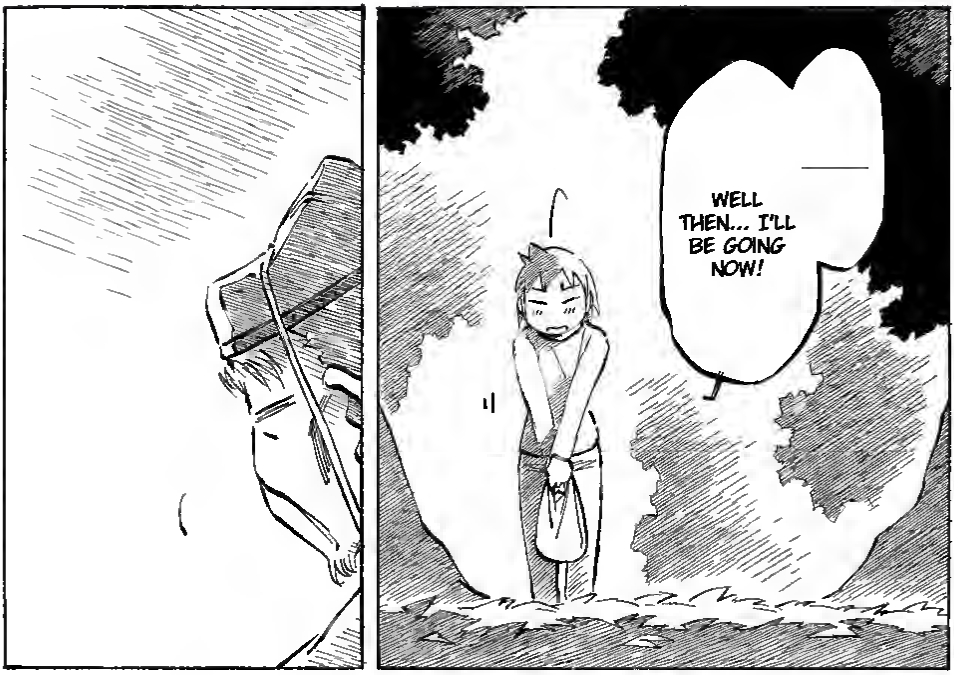

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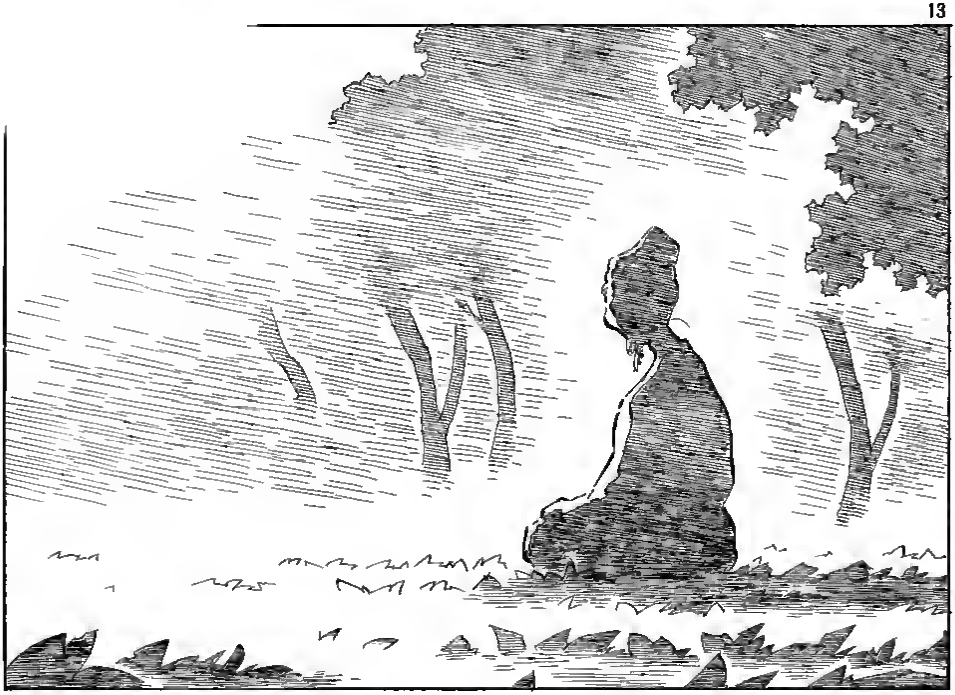
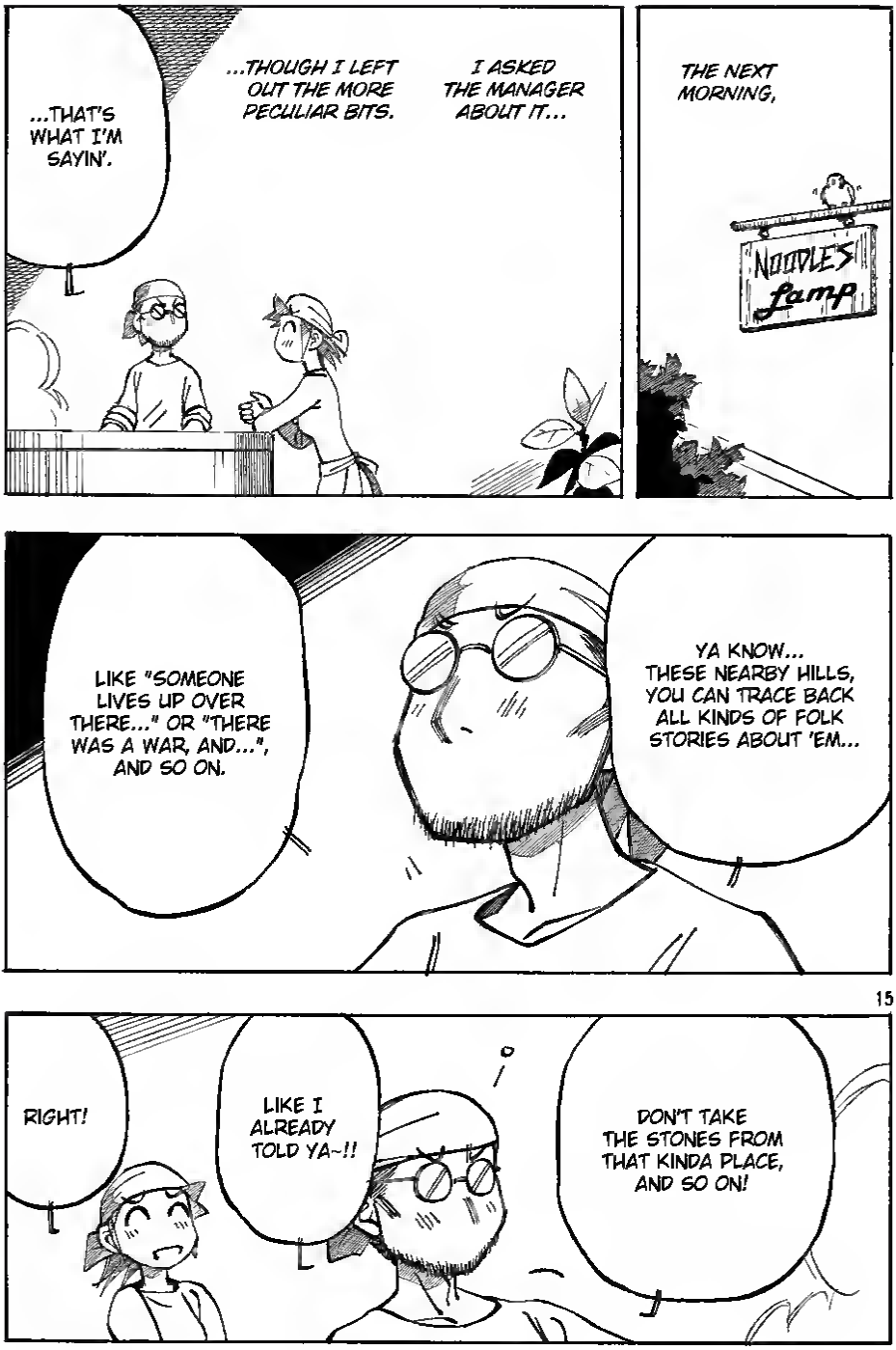
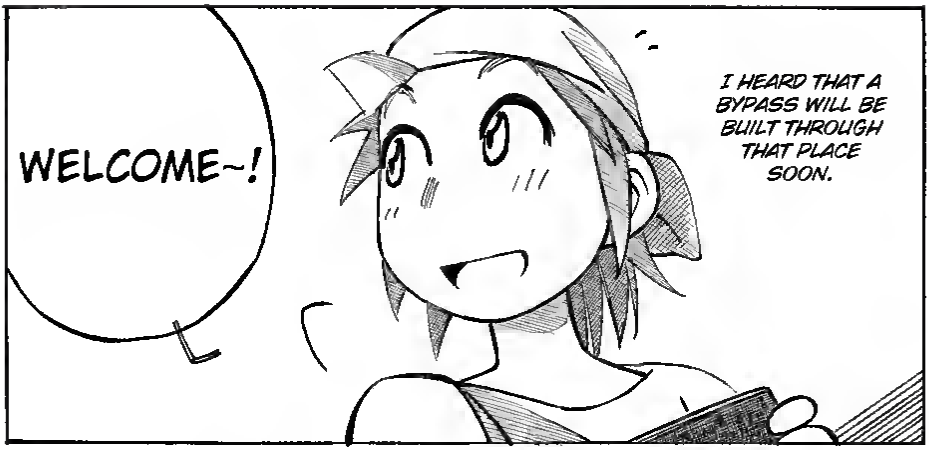


STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
Phew!
I LET OUT A HUGE SIGH OF RELIEF WHEN I WAS FINALLY FAR ENOUGH AWAY.
WHEN I TURNED BACK, IT JUST LOOKED LIKE REGULAR OLD BUSHES.


...THAT'S WHAT I'M SAYIN'.
...THOUGH I LEFT OUT THE MORE PECULIAR BITS.
I ASKED THE MANAGER ABOUT IT...
THE NEXT MORNING,
NOODLES Lamp
LIKE "SOMEONE LIVES UP OVER THERE..." OR "THERE WAS A WAR, AND...", AND SO ON.
YA KNOW... THESE NEARBY HILLS, YOU CAN TRACE BACK ALL KINDS OF FOLK STORIES ABOUT 'EM...
15
RIGHT!
LIKE I ALREADY TOLD YA~!!
DON'T TAKE THE STONES FROM THAT KINDA PLACE, AND SO ON!



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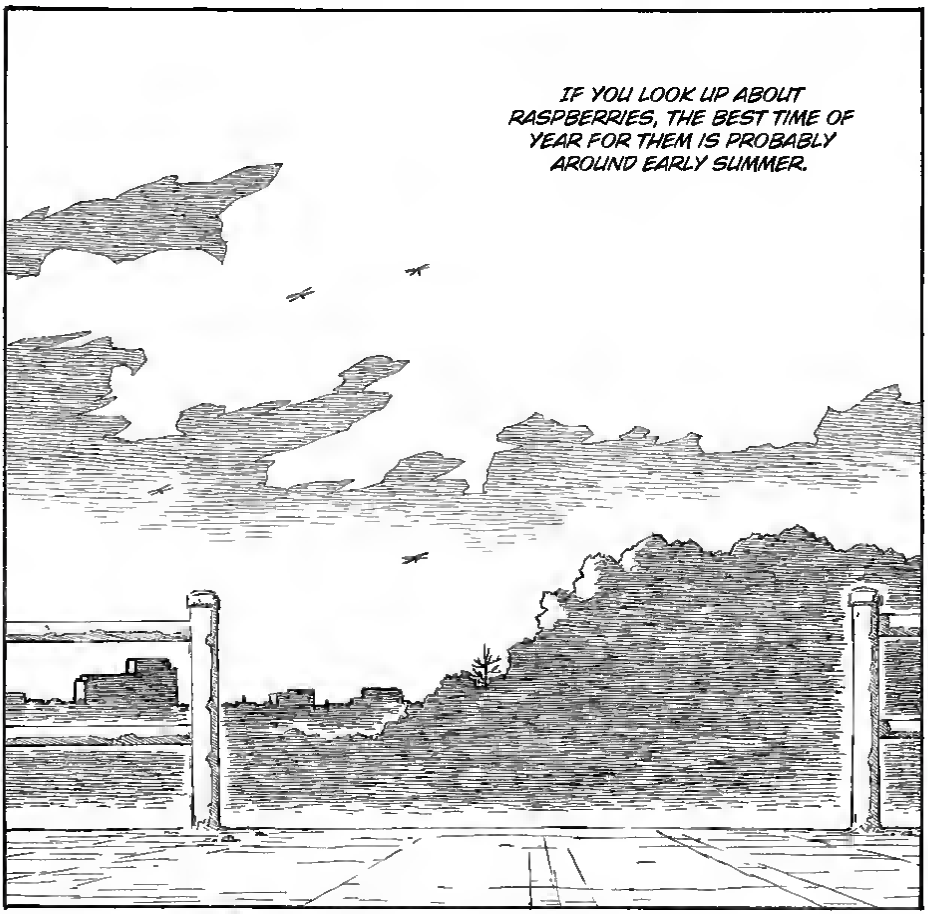

I've still got lots to learn about dealing with these kinds of "streams".

Kotonoba Drive
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